

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Schenectady County Community College on its 40th anniversary of founding. Over the last 40 years, Schenectady County Community College has met the educational needs of tens of thousands and offered a pathway to career success and prosperity.

SCCC has recently expanded its educational offerings to meet the needs of the 21st-century workforce. The college offers a cutting-edge Nanoscale Materials Technology program that trains students for top careers in the high-tech industry. The Culinary Arts program at SCCC attracts students from around the country and is a model for other community colleges as well. In addition, the college offers one of the only aviation programs currently available at a community college.

As testament to the college's importance to the community, full-time enrollment at the campus has increased by 15 percent over the past year.

On behalf of the residents of the 21st Congressional District, I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Quintin Bullock and Schenectady County Community College for 40 years of educating students and preparing tens of thousands for successful futures. We look forward to your continued achievement, and express our heartfelt congratulations.

#### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT'S BENEFIT CONCERT SERIES

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Miami-Dade County Public Schools for its Superintendent's Benefit Concert Series. This groundbreaking event will bring together singers, dancers and performers from throughout our public school system. Entitled "Listen to the Music," their first event will be tomorrow, Friday, November 20, at Miami Beach Senior High School, located in my congressional district. This uplifting event supports the "cultural passport program," which provides kindergarten through 12th-grade students with a different cultural experience each school year.

This unique program will ensure that our students get to visit local museums and art galleries, as well as experience live musical theatrical and dance performances before they graduate.

As a former educator and Florida certified teacher, I am proud to see our teachers, our students, and our community working together to make this great series a success. I encourage all in south Florida to attend this historic event tomorrow and enjoy a great performance for a great cause. I congratulate Superintendent Alberto Carvalho

for doing such professional work in a challenging economic environment.

#### NATIONAL EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month, and I rise today to help bring awareness to the month and to this year's theme, which is "Talk About It." Epilepsy is a neurological condition that affects more than 3 million Americans and more than 50 million people worldwide. It affects people of all ages, nations, and races. A burst of electrical energy in the brain can cause an individual with epilepsy to experience a seizure. Seizures can be mild, but sadly, in some cases, they are fatal.

In 2008, Congress passed legislation to establish epilepsy centers of excellence within the Veterans Administration. A traumatic brain injury can put a servicemember at greater risk for developing epilepsy in later years. And these centers of excellence will help ensure our veterans receive top-of-the-line care.

Fortunately, research into epilepsy has resulted in the development of medications and other treatments that have proven successful in controlling epileptic seizures. However, these treatments are not effective for everyone with epilepsy, which means more work remains.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Epilepsy Awareness Month and to pay tribute to all those working to promote a greater understanding.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1963. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide assistance to caregivers of veterans, to improve the provision of health care to veterans, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-83, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the National Council of the Arts:

The Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL).

□ 1645

#### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN IRAQ

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the fall of Saddam Hussein in Iraq has unleashed tremendous religious violence against the Christian community there.

According to the London Times, "In the chaos after the U.S.-led war invasion of Iraq in 2003, Christians found themselves targeted by Islamic terrorists."

Archbishop Paul Faraj Rahho said Christians in Iraq faced three bad choices: either they fled, converted to Islam, or risked being killed. Then in 2008, Archbishop Rahho himself was kidnapped and murdered.

These horrendous human rights violations and crimes against Christians in Iraq were brought to my attention by one of my constituents, Susan Dakak, a civil engineer who is a native of Iraq. Iraq's Christian Ambassador, the Iraqi Ambassador to the Vatican, my constituents tell me, is doing almost nothing to call attention to the plight of these people.

The U.S. should do more to aid the Christian minority in Iraq. At least one-third, maybe closer to one-half of these Christians, have fled the country. They should be allowed to return. The killings, kidnappings, and religious persecutions must stop.

The U.S. Government should substantially reduce our aid if Christians are not allowed to freely express their religion in Iraq.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MYRA FARR

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Myra Farr for a lifetime of service and volunteerism.

In 1938, when Myra Farr married, the National Council of Jewish Women Miami Chapter gave her a gift of membership. She then served NCJW as its president and honorary national vice president. Throughout the 70 years since, Myra has given of her time and energy to improve our community.

She became one of the original volunteers of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, where she continues to serve on the board of directors as a lifetime appointee. Myra has also served on the National Conference of Christian and Jews and in various capacities with Jewish Family Services, American Jewish Committee, and the University of Miami Women's Guild. She was a delegate to the White House Conference on Families and has been awarded the Call to Service Award from the U.S. President's Council on Volunteerism.

Myra Farr has dedicated her life to advocating for the well-being of others. At age 94, Myra continues to mentor generations of women—including me—and has improved the lives of countless individuals. She sets a remarkable example for all Americans.

#### IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT JUSTIN M. DECROW

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respect to the memory of Staff Sergeant Justin M. DeCrow, one of the 13 victims that died in the tragic and senseless attack at Ford Hood, Texas, on November 5, 2009.

Staff Sergeant DeCrow is survived by his wife Marikay and their 13-year-old daughter Kyla who currently live in Evans, Georgia. Justin was described as a loving father and husband with an "infectious charm and wit that always put others at ease." This is what many of us aspire to be, but it seems Justin was an exemplary person to display such character.

We owe Staff Sergeant DeCrow's family an answer as to why this has happened and to ensure that it never happens again. I pledge to all the victims and their families that I will do everything that I can to find the answers as to why this act of terror took place.

#### MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM ACT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reaffirm my support for physicians, for the work that they do, and, of course, the fix that we just passed, the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act, that finally responds to the medical care that doctors give all over America.

This bill will repeal a 21-percent fee reduction that currently was scheduled right around the corner for January 2010. It also reinforces the rights of seniors to keep their doctors and, as well, to lower costs. It has a pay-for as well. It is a procedure that has already been handled.

Proper management of Medicare funding ensures that the Medicare system will be able to properly support the medical needs of its intended beneficiaries. This bill will help promote the use of primary care and give access to the use of primary care practitioners in Medicare and throughout the health care system.

I have been working to support and protect physician-owned hospitals which give quality care, physicians who are able to go in and protect the quality of medical care in rural and urban areas. This bill also supports our physicians, and I am proud of it.

#### RELEASE FATHER NGUYEN VAN LY

(Mr. CAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon the administration and Congress to ask the Vietnamese Government to unconditionally release Father Nguyen Van Ly to his family.

Father Ly is one of many Vietnamese citizens who have been harassed for re-

ligious and democracy advocacy. He has been placed on trial without defense and imprisoned more than once for a total of almost 17 years.

As a Roman Catholic priest and prominent Vietnamese dissident, Father Ly has become a powerful icon in the ongoing fight for human rights. For his continuous imprisonment and nonviolent protests, Amnesty International adopted him as the Prisoner of Conscience in 1983. His support for the Bloc 8406 Manifesto, which called for a democratic Vietnam, has led to his most recent sentence on March 30, 2007, for an additional 8 years in prison. Sadly, Father Ly suffered his second stroke just 5 days ago, leaving the right side of his body paralyzed.

In a letter to His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung, the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Members of Congress asked the government of Vietnam to unconditionally release Father Ly on humanitarian grounds; provide access for his immediate and long-term medical care; and grant his family unencumbered admittance to lend moral, physical, and spiritual support during this difficult time.

We believe Father Nguyen Van Ly to be a prisoner of conscience held solely for the peaceful expression of his dissenting political and religious beliefs. Asking for his release is an opportunity for Congress to take a bold stand for human rights.

#### DON'T BRING TERRORISTS TO THE UNITED STATES

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we've had people saying yes, we want to bring terrorists to New York. We want to bring them to Illinois. We had Senator DURBIN say, This is a lifeline. This is an opportunity for these people to finally have a chance to save their communities, and this project will give them that chance. Talking about bringing jobs to Illinois, Governor Pat Quinn said the prison that will be proposed in Thompson, Illinois, would provide economic opportunity.

We're talking about terrorists. And the moment these terrorists put their feet in New York after we've spent millions and millions of dollars, they will then file a motion to transfer venue. My friends across the aisle who have said, we want to look them in the eye and sentence them to death will have their statements as exhibits in the motion to transfer venue as to why they could not get a fair trial in New York.

This is a huge mistake. A terrorist whose own pleading earlier this year says that "your end is very near and your fall will be just as the fall of the towers on the blessed 9/11 day" does not need to be brought to the most densely populated area in the country.

Don't do it, Mr. President.

#### HONORING MARY ANNE SHARP

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of my constituents, Mary Anne Sharp. She is celebrating her 45th year as director of the Decatur Civic Chorus in Decatur, Georgia.

Under Ms. Sharp's leadership, the chorus has grown from a small group to a well-known and widely respected ensemble of 60 voices which has performed at hundreds of civic functions and organizations, including hospitals, nursing, and retirement homes.

Under Mary Anne Sharp's direction, the chorus has represented Georgia and the United States on tours and at festivals throughout the world. She is one of the points of light in my district, and I just recognize her from the well of the House for the great job she has done. Culture brings us all together; and I just applaud her efforts in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue to grapple with the great issues of war and peace, health care policy and other matters of state, let us not forget to recognize the heroes in our communities who give their time and spirit to share the arts with their neighbors.

Let us thank Mary Anne Sharp for her work, her heart, and her contributions to the community I am privileged to represent.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House to ask the question that many Americans are asking, and that is, Where are the jobs?

Over the last few months, the American people have been saying very vocally that they want this Congress to address the big problems that are affecting them today—and there are a number of problems. But the top problem I hear from my constituents—and I am hearing from so many of my other colleagues that their constituents are saying the same thing—is that they want this Congress to be focused on creating jobs. Unfortunately, we're seeing just the opposite happen in terms of the policies that are being brought forth by the liberal leadership of this Democratically controlled Congress.

It started back with the first bill that came out, the so-called stimulus